



MONTEREY NEWS

JANUARY 1995



THE TOWN

The Select Board met with Mary Wallace, Tolitha Butler, Alice Shaffer, Charles Slater, and Harry and Anne Vickerman, members of Monterey Grange No. 291, to discuss various concerns relating to the town offices and use of the building by the Grange. In a letter to the Selectmen dated October 6, 1994, Grange members asked that whenever the downstairs is used by another group, the room be left in an orderly condition and all items, especially heavy furniture, be returned to their original places.

The Select Board also agreed to the following requests made by the Grange: that a crack across the basement floor be filled in; that a key for the upstairs be provided; that the Select Board have someone check on the light for the side-door parking area; that fire extinguishers be provided (placement as recommended by Fire Chief Ray Tryon); that an additional sign be erected in front of the Grange with directions to the side ramp; and that a no-skid surface for the side ramp be installed. The Board and Grange members agreed that these are all necessary, important safety measures, and that prompt action will be taken.

On December 8 the Planning Board held a public hearing at the town offices to review a proposed Zoning Bylaw revision that would replace the words "Board of Selectmen" with the words "the Building Inspector" in various parts of the Zoning Bylaw related to granting and



overseeing of Building Permits. Approximately twenty citizens attended the meeting, which was abruptly ended by a power failure (not the only time some of us were in the dark). Select Board Chair Peter Brown and Selectman Stefan Grotz explained that, according to the Massachusetts General Laws, in towns with a Building Inspector, it is he (not the Select Board) who is supposed to oversee Building Permit Applications and grant Building Permits. Select Board members cited this Bylaw revision as bringing the local bylaws into compliance with state law. Citizens present voiced concerns about the change, asking if our Building Inspector, Carleton Anderson, has enough time to devote to Monterey, noting that he is Building Inspector for at least two other towns. Some citizens questioned whether the bylaw revision would take the Select Board out of the Building Permit process. Select Board members

responded that they are integral in the Building Permit process as the Board of Health, which oversees wastewater disposal and well-drilling for all building projects. A few people thought that perhaps Building Permit Applications should take two weeks instead of the current one-week time period. Selectman Stefan Grotz thought that this would be an impediment to local builders. An unofficial poll taken at the Monterey General Store (by your faithful reporter) showed strong resistance to a longer time period for obtaining a Building Permit.

Highway Superintendent Don Amstead met with the Select Board to discuss hiring Mark Anelli for the Highway Department crew, to fill a vacancy following the resignation of William Bynack. The Board voted unanimously to hire Mark Anelli.

— Maggie Leonard



MAGGIE LEONARD



MAGGIE LEONARD

South County Joiners Phil Newey, Scott Jensen, John Bazonski, and Eric Pedersen at the Monterey General Store, where outside work was completed in December, including an extension of the front porch, a new loading dock, and some fine detailing at the eaves that reproduces original work on the eighteenth century structure. The standing seam metal roof breaks neatly to join the porch roofs turning the corner along the L-shaped store front. Inside, work continues on a baking kitchen, expanded deli, storage and office space. Soon the General Store will be the first and only place in town to get a cappuccino and freshly baked doughnut, bagel, or pastry.

• BEV ROHLEHR & THE COLBYS •

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BOARD OF HEALTH, SELECT BOARD NOTICES

The Monterey Town Hall will be closed on Monday, January 16, 1995, for the celebration of Martin Luther King Day.

There will be no meeting of the Monterey Board of Selectmen or the Board of Health on Monday, January 16, 1995. The next regularly scheduled meeting of these boards will be Monday, January 23, 1995.

The Monterey Board of Health has set the following fees, effective January 1, 1995:

| | |
|---|-------|
| Adult Camp/Cabins (recreational) Permit | \$100 |
| Children's Camp Permit | 100 |
| Disposal Works Construction Permit | 50 |
| Disposal Works Installer Permit | 50 |
| Food Service Establishment Permit | 50 |
| Milk Dealer Permit | 10 |
| Milk Pasteurization Permit | 10 |
| Percolation Test Witness Fee | 100 |
| Septic Hauler's Permit | 50 |
| Well Drilling Permit | 50 |

— Peter S. Brown, Chair
Stefan Grotz
Georgiana C. O'Connell
Monterey Board of Health
Monterey Select Board

MONTEREY CHURCH NEWS

A new year. A new beginning. A new hope. A NEW MINISTER! Yes, the Monterey Church is delighted to announce it has successfully completed its search for a new minister. His name is Keith Snow, and he will come to us from the Emmanuel United Church of Christ, Feeding Hills, Virginia, which he has served since 1990.

An informal reception was held on Saturday, December 3, giving members and friends an opportunity to meet and greet Keith. On December 4, Keith led the worship service, and in the Congregational Meeting held immediately afterward, those present voted to accept him as our minister.

We await his permanent arrival at the end of March with eagerness, joy, and anticipation. Thank you all who have given us prayer support in this regard.

I find it most fitting that it was at this particular time of year that our decision was made. We have just come through the Advent season, celebrating the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. And with the birth of Our Lord comes a rebirth of the energies of this church, looking with hope and joy to the spring ... to a renewal of commitment and rededication of service to the community ... to Easter and the beginning of new life in the form of a new pastor. HALLELUJAH!

Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer ... for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.
(from Isaiah 56:7)

SUNDAY WORSHIP — 10 a.m.

The schedule of Sunday services for January is as follows:

Jan. 1 (New Year's Day) · Led by MaryKate Jordan
Jan. 8 · Led by Rev. Cara Davis
Jan. 15 · Led by Rev. Kenneth Taylor
Jan. 22 · Led by Kathy Duhon
Jan. 29 · Led by MaryKate Jordan

The Parish Council will meet on Monday, January 9, at 7:30 p.m.

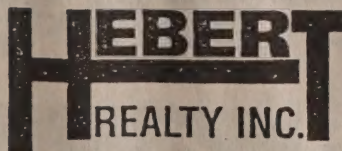
— Judy Hayes

STEFAN GROTZ ATTORNEY AT LAW

312 MAIN STREET
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

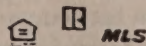
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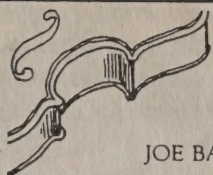
Sunday Services · 10 a.m.

For assistance & information:

Bob Emmel (Clerk, Trustee) 528-1321
Tom O'Brien (Trustee) 269-7471
Judy Hayes (Worship) 528-1874

With a prayer request or to join the Prayer Chain:

MaryKate Jordan 528-5557
Mary or Ray Ward 528-9243
Judy Hayes 528-1874



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MONTEREY GRANGE

The meeting of Monterey Grange No. 291 set for December 7 was cancelled due to bad weather, but later in the month members did pack twenty-three cheer boxes at the home of Lecturer Mary Wallace, and delivered them to Fairview Manor, area nursing homes, and shut-ins.

Members of the Grange met on December 21 for the annual Christmas Party. Families and friends were invited, and everyone enjoyed a variety program, buffet, and the exchange of gifts.

The Grange supplied 200 home-baked cookies for the Firemen's Christmas Party.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 1995, when members are to bring items of interest on recreational areas in New England.

— Fraternally,
Mary Wallace, Lecturer



COUNCIL ON AGING

The Elders Group coordinates discussions to deal with life stage issues such as declining physical abilities, social role changes, losses and grieving, loneliness, sense of belonging, and pleasures and activities in old age. They meet at Main Street Human Resources, 60 Cottage Street, Great Barrington, on Tuesdays, 3-4:30 p.m., November through April. If interested, call Cary Brink-Beckwith or Donna Moffett, Berkshire Mental Health Center, 413-499-0412.

The monthly *Senior Citizen Newsletter*, with information relating to activities and meals at the Claire Teague Senior Center in Great Barrington, can now be picked up at the Monterey General Store. (Activities include swimming at the Marian Fathers pool in Stockbridge on Tuesdays and Fridays, 1:30-2:30 p.m.) Also available is the *Berkshire Senior*, a monthly newspaper for the Berkshires' 30,000 seniors.

— Pauline Nault

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CHILDREN'S HEALTH

January 1995—Happy New Year! May it be a year of good health and better fortune for each of you! Our parent-child playgroups will resume regular schedules as the schools do. Cancellations due to weather will be announced over radio station WSBS. It is best to call ahead if you are unsure. The Simon's Rock College gym playgroups attendees will be able to use the road next to Lake Mansfield during the winter.

A New Year's Luncheon will be held at St. Peter's Parish Center on East Street in Great Barrington on January 25, 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. for mothers of children born in 1994. Siblings are invited,

and childcare will be available. This is sponsored by the Parent-to-Parent Advisory Board, which is comprised of parents and representatives from area services. In order to help us plan, please call Claudette to let us know if you can attend.

The South Berkshire Task Force on Families and Children will sponsor a workshop, "Communication With Children," led by Bob Boylston at Bear Care Center, Great Barrington, January 23, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Childcare will be available. There is no charge. Please call Claudette to register.

Our video lending library has three additions: *The Family Trap* discusses effects of addiction on families; *You Can*

Be A Better Parent in 30 Minutes, a survival kit for parents in the '90s; and *Helping Your Baby Sleep Through the Night*, a practical guide for parents of newborns who are not sleeping through the night. A new book has been added to our book-lending library: *In Praise of Single Parenting*.

With the extra cost of winter fuel, families may want to pursue the services of WIC (528-0457) or Foodstamps (1-800-645-8333). Call these numbers for income guidelines and other information.

Claudette Callahan, Coordinator of the Family Support Network and Mary Jane Sackett, Nurse Educator, Great Barrington OBGYN, will co-lead a Grandparenting Workshop on January 12, from 7 p.m. in the Conference Room, Fairview Hospital, Great Barrington. Grandparents, important support people for families, are often forgotten heroes needing information and support, too. Please call the hospital to register for the class. There is no charge.

— Claudette Callahan



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DEMOCRATS STUDY SMALL TOWN MANAGEMENT

Part Four: On-going Change

We continue our effort to clarify the functions of town officials. This month we consider the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Building Inspector, Board of Health, and Board of Appeals, together with the ways in which they interact.

Small towns can legislate their own approaches to land use control and environmental management. The five boards we consider this month have significant power to plan the growth of our community. Each functions independently, but cooperation and the open exchange of information is essential, as their areas of responsibility overlap. The work of these boards forms the basis for comprehending community needs, and the foundations of improved planning and supportive bylaws.

Planning Board

Guiding growth in the town is the purview of the Planning Board, an elected, policy-making body. The Planning Board leads the physical evolution of the town. Its duties include analysis of community resources and needs, and master planning. State law requires the development of a zoning map, preparation of an annual report, and public hearings on any proposed zoning bylaw changes, to be held prior to Town Meeting. The Planning Board is the ultimate sponsor of Zoning Bylaws adopted by vote at Town Meeting. These define permitted and prohibited use of land, and land use allowed by Special Permit. They also deal with lot dimensions and the location of buildings on lots in various districts. Sometimes our "zoning map," showing land-use districts of the town, and prepared by the Planning Board in any town with zoning bylaws, is confused with the "official map," which is a detailed engineering survey that shows existing roads, open space, and areas proposed for development or preservation; preparation of this official map is authorized by the voters at Town Meeting.

The Planning Board may also undertake a master plan of the town with an inventory of existing public ways, places, parks, bridges, recreational areas, possible sites for public ways, buildings, and structures, location and flow of storm sewers, and other community facilities.

To cope with growth and its impact, the Planning Board needs to anticipate change, and look as well for innovative ways to guide land development, which tests the adequacy of zoning and other legal controls. Development can be beneficial, but it can also strain water supplies and wastewater disposal facilities, encroach on open space, and aggravate existing problems with soil erosion, run-off, and flooding.

The Planning Board protects the town as it deals with on-going problems; it's in a position to lead the town as it evolves physically. Their long-range vision is a fundamental necessity.

Conservation Commission

Most of us know the Conservation Commission only as the guardian of wetlands. That is their most visible role, but the environmental knowledge our dedicated Commission members bring to their decisions is broad.

The Conservation Commission and the state Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE) are responsible for enforcing the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. Landowners and builders planning any construction or land alteration in the vicinity of a wetland must first contact the Conservation Commission to assess the project's implications under the Wetlands Act. A member of the Commission will inspect the worksite to see whether it falls within 150 feet of a specific, identified wetland. If so, a Notice of Intent must be filed with the Commission, which will then issue an Order of Conditions for the work to ensure compliance with the Wetlands Act. Following successful completion of the project, the Commission issues a Certificate of Compliance. These docu-

ments are recorded at the Registry of Deeds alongside title to the property.

Starting work without a valid Order of Conditions, failing to comply with an Order, or to record an Order at the Registry of Deeds, failing to observe a specified time period, or to obtain an extension permit are all violations of the Wetlands Act.

Some members of the Commission expressed regret that people meet them mainly with apprehension. Owners seem to expect to be told flatly what they can and cannot do. In fact, the Commission wants to provide information that will "help you make your way through" the legal requirements of appropriate land use. They offer friendly guidance and nec-

essary controls for the preservation and safety of the land. They are thinking far beyond permits for the development of individual properties.

The shared concerns of the Conservation Commission and Planning Board include protection of the ground water supply, pollution control, flood and storm damage control, and the protection of wildlife habitat. Areas bordering on creeks, rivers, ponds, streams, and lakes need special protections.

Building Inspector

The Select Board appoints an Inspector of Buildings and local inspectors as necessary to administer the state Building Code. The Building Inspector reports directly to the Select Board that appoints him. He supervises construction for compliance with the state Building Code—a daunting document with more than a thousand pages of technical construction requirements constituting the minimum standards for construction, repair, demolition, and removal of buildings.

Building permits are granted within seven to thirty days (per state statute) of application, when plans and specifications conform with the provisions of our Zoning Bylaw, the state Subdivision Control Law and the state Building and Sanitary Codes. Construction begins af-



ter a Building Permit has been issued, and the process ends when the Building Inspector issues a Certificate of Occupancy. Quoting from *Managing Small Towns*, published by the Massachusetts Municipal Association, "The Inspector is obliged to assure compliance with the town's zoning bylaw in the first instance by withholding a building occupancy permit when necessary but he is also charged with the continuing responsibility of enforcing the bylaw on his own initiative or at the request of the boards."

The regulatory demands on owner and builder are quite specific; he is ultimately responsible for honoring town bylaws and state building codes, even as the Building Inspector must see to their enforcement. Clearly it behooves the town and Building Inspector to provide everyone with the same detailed and accurate information to facilitate compliance. Information now available at the town offices has proven inadequate in the past at preventing lapses and mistakes on both sides.

Perhaps Monterey would benefit from something like the *Building Permit Guide Book for Residential Construction* prepared by the Sheffield Town Administrator. The *Guide Book* presents precise, sequential information. It is a well-organized flow chart which an owner can share with a responsible contractor and a qualified on-site inspector. Building a home should not require legal counsel for owners or the town.

The Select Board must take the lead

in coordinating the duties of Building Inspector and town boards, and ensuring that all understand their respective roles. Under pending changes in Monterey's Zoning Bylaws (see "The Town," p. 1), responsibilities of the Building Inspector and Select Board with respect to Building Permits may soon be spelled out a little differently. These changes will be presented at Town Meeting.

Board of Health

Monterey's Board of Health has a primary role in development with regard to water supply and sewage disposal systems.

If a building requires a water source, the Board of Health issues a well permit following a successful perc test. The well permit certifies availability of an adequate supply of potable water. The Monterey Board of Health has the assistance of a professional sanitarian who monitors applications for wells and septic systems, witnesses perc tests, and inspects finished systems, all in accord with Title 5 of the state Sanitary Code.

The Board of Health, with the help of the Town Clerk, also has responsibilities unrelated to land use. They continuously receive and file information from the state on communicable diseases, such as the rabies. The town Animal Inspector reports on rabid animals destroyed, and on those who have bitten people or other animals. Tests are arranged and reported to the state.

In addition, the Board of Health monitors water quality, food production, and service in our summer camps, religiously affiliated and therapeutic communities, and the General Store. Finally, the Board arranges care for the elderly and the very young who may need day care, and for disabled people in need of medication, apparatus, or transportation. In other words, the Board serves as a health communication center, receiving phone calls and making appropriate connections with the VNA, the Monterey Council on Aging, Elder Services, Berkshire Mental Health, or other agencies.

Board of Appeals

The Board of Appeals is the judicial authority of the town. Our Board is elected, although this board in other towns is often appointed. It is charged as follows, quoting our Zoning Bylaws:

The power of the Board of Appeals shall include the following:

1. Appeals. To hear and decide appeals and review any order, requirement, decision or determination made by the Board of Selectmen or other officer charged with the enforcement of this Bylaw. ...

2. Special Permits. To grant permits for exception as provided in this Bylaw and in Chapter 40A of the General Laws when it shall find, after a public hearing, that such exception shall be in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the Bylaw and that the use involved will not be injurious, nox-

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ious, offensive, or detrimental to the established or future character of the neighborhood and of the Town and subject to appropriate conditions or safeguards if deemed necessary. ...

3. Variances. To hear and decide requests for a variance from the terms of the Bylaw where the Board of Appeals specifically finds that, owing to circumstances relating to the soil conditions, shape, or topography of such land or structures but not affecting generally the zoning district in which it is located, a literal enforcement of the provisions of the Bylaw would involve substantial hardship, financial or otherwise, to

the petitioner or appellant, and that desirable relief may be granted without substantial detriment to the public good and without nullifying or substantially derogating from the intent or purpose of the Bylaw. The Board may authorize a use or activity variance. ...

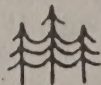
To summarize simply, under our Zoning Bylaw the Appeals Board hears citizen appeals of decisions made by any of the town boards or the Building Inspector, and acts on applications for Special Permits. It solicits the written input of other boards in every case. Decisions (which are filed with the Town Clerk and

certified by the Clerk for the Registry of Deeds) must support the intent of the Zoning Bylaw. Good decisions connect town history with the present.

Mutual respect and honesty is vital to these transactions between citizen and Appeals Board. The Board must provide complete information and precise procedural instructions which will enable the owners to accomplish their goals if possible while meeting the requirements of our Zoning Bylaw.

— Melvene Dyer-Bennet
Vice Chair, Democratic Party

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— For Walter

*I understand epiphany
because, walking our frolicking pup
up the frozen road
in the twilight grey of dry
trees rune-branched against
the winter sky
and solstice drawn in
its darkest breath of death
I touch your hand, and
warm fingers entwine with mine.*

*Thus, at the turning point,
we kiss—
old as we are
and in our own bones' winter—
I know that deep rose of glow, rising as the sun sets,
bespeaks the Love hidden in love.*

*The young pup prances back with a stick
wanting to play.
This turn of earth wills night to day
death to life
opens the soul of the season
I see the house gold-flashing windows
as we turn
we show forth to shine
upon each other and those
who understand the nature of this night
our fire will kindle light—
what a mystery!
Shy as we are, we know
something wondrous has been born—no, reborn
in sacred time.*

*We pull off boots in the mudroom,
the dog pushing through the kitchen door
three tattered Berkshire magi
home once more.*

— A. O. Howell

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL IN NOVEMBER

*Things close to the generous heat
Of Earth's kindness, they don't feel
The resignation and defeat
Of the tall treetops, the winged teal.*

*When all else is flying or withdrawn
In tight bud or hibernation,
The strawberry leaves in our lawn
Are having a quiet celebration.*

*They put on colors, the brightest in the land,
Yellow and orange and deepest red;
They dance a mazurka, hand in hand,
To the honk of the gooseflight, overhead.*

— David P. McAllester



GEDNEY FARM

*Whisper, whisper in the walls
Of summer heat and cattle calls
Sheltering geometry of roof
Leans over new-formed human comfort
Where huge patient heads once waited
All bone and liquid eye*

*Startled step and querulous bleat
Roiled around and up and through
This cavernous mow
Where music, voice and celebration
Echo now*

*Murk and sweat, shout and laugh
Wind and shiver, curse and bark
Bright, burning hurried harvest
Of fragrant dust-green leaf and blade
Sharp, silver rigid rhythm
Of dark-bound winters wait*

*These fecund scenes vivid and vital
Receded into rafters, stone and shingle
Coiled in murmuring witness
To the fortunate celebrants
Who now seek refuge here*

*Gasp and mumble of newfound passion
Warmth and smile of renewed ardor
Loud revelry of marriage
Quiet revelation and creation
Embrace of langorous peace*

*Vignettes fresh and aged
Rise in sibilant blend and whirl
Sheathing board and block
With luminous ceaseless memory
Binding the imposing edifice
In sensuous, susurrous strength*

— Nick Hardcastle



DEER SEASON: ENDS WITH A BANG

We take note of the holidays and seasons in our family. Our younger daughter Cora, who keeps us organized and likes to make plans, always knows what holiday is coming up. She gets us in the mood by requesting bedtime stories to do with Memorial Day, or Mother's Day, or Easter, or whatever she spots on the calendar. Lately of course it has been Christmas, and if that seems like a big subject with almost too much possibility of character and plot for the average sleepy adult to deal with, don't worry. Cora sets the limits as we go along. Start out with Santa Claus and she will tell you that this is not to be about Santa but rather about our family and pets. Start out with the horses and she will tell you, "No horses in this story, please. Make it all about my dolls."

Since this is a time of year full of overlapping seasons and holidays we feel lucky to have a cruise director to tell us where our focus should be at any given moment. Last weekend it was Christmas Crafts. Saturday morning found us all four at the kitchen table hacking up Carola potatoes (they are yellow on the inside and are especially good mashed) to make block prints. We rolled out assorted sizes of paper, weighted the curling edges down with rocks and coffee mugs, and covered them with potato angels, chickadees, stars, trees, candy canes. We were going along like that, head-first into the Christmas season, when three loud reports jolted us back to the realization that this was also the last day of hunting season.

We live across the road from Bear-town State Forest, so we often hear guns popping a ways off. These sounded like they might have come from the sugar house, the chicken house, or even the bathroom, so our hero, husband, and dad put down his angel potato, grabbed his orange vest and tore out the door.

"Daddy, come back!" cried the cruise director.

"Don't worry," I said, my voice still bright with poster paints and the whole Norman Rockwell look of our kitchen scene, "He's just gone out to check on the animals. He'll be right back."

Of course he didn't come right back,



and my own Christmas focus was beginning to blur when we heard two more shots. These were just as close as the first ones, but from a slightly different direction. I put down my golden chickadee and reached for my boots.

"Mommy! Don't you go, too!" wailed the little Norman Rockwells.

"I'll be careful," I said. "You just stay in the house."

So off I went to deal with tracks, bodies, guys.

By the end of the day we had made the acquaintance of two guys slightly lost in our woods, a couple of game wardens, and one dead deer. We have

absolutely talked the story to death in our kitchen but there is no easy answer to our predicament. Should we throw the book at the guy for not having asked our permission to finish off a wounded deer on our land? We would have given it, if he'd asked. We also would have showed him just where our house and animals were, relative to him. He walked within fifty feet of our sugar house and never saw it, he says. Would he have seen the pony, tied to a hemlock tree just across the brook? What if Dad had been down below his well wrangling in his ducks? They go down there now that the pond is frozen, and every day Dad goes to herd them in. This is exactly where the wounded deer was finally killed, just below Dad's house, but of course our hunter "didn't see the house."

We let the guy off. The game warden stood in our Kitchen of Christmas Crafts and shook her head, saying, "You are being really nice to this guy."

At the end of the day we had wrapping paper spread to dry all over the house. I thought about the deer, with two little knobs of antlers just showing and a shattered leg. I thought about the hunter, with his mid-morning alcohol breath and his big scare that he was going to have to pay a fine and lose his license and all that. We looked at his hunting license and I was surprised to notice he is only 56. I've even thought about his birth, for heaven's sake—you can see I am seasonally confused. My children think this man is probably telling the story of his hunting day to his grandchildren, and maybe they are right. I'd like to know how he is working in the pony and us and the golden chickadees. I know we are all in there somewhere, and I know that's why we let him off. Making up these stories can wear a person out with decisions. I'm just glad I have Cora and her calendar to set a few limits here and there.

— Bonner J. McAllester

WILDLIFE SURVEY

Mammals

The first sighting of a moose on Lake Garfield was reported by a resident at the mouth of Peppermint Brook. The moose, big as life, waded across the brook, paying little attention to the alert observer (whose name I'm ashamed to have misplaced!). This was about the time moose were seen down near Gould Farm Road.

Mary Jane Handy saw a baby bear near the pipeline on Tyringham Road three years ago when we had many more bear reports than now.

One can see beaver food supplies now: an assemblage of mostly submerged sticks in the ponds near the houses. When the ponds are frozen the beavers can swim under the ice to these piles and carry a supply back to the house for leisurely bark peeling.

Householders are reporting a plethora of mice moving indoors as the weather gets colder. When the early small snows melt, the remains of tunnels are revealed everywhere, showing how abundant mice and voles are, and how they use snow cover for protection in their foraging.

Birds

Mary Handy had a rare sight of a snowy owl as she was driving up Smith Hill from Tyringham the night of De-

cember 7. The owl flew along over her car, reflecting the light from the headlights and keeping up with the speed of the car! Loul McIntosh writes from Gould Farm, December 10: "The season advances, but what a glorious fall! To our chickadees and bluejays of August, chipping sparrows and the occasional junco in September, the woodpeckers in October, and the purple finches and house finches in November, we have now added lots of juncos, mourning doves, goldfinches, and white-breasted nuthatches, as of this writing."

An old sugar maple at the east end of Hupi Road is supplying some pileated woodpeckers with a feast of grubs. The

tree is full of those rounded oblong holes, and the ground below the tree is carpeted with a peck or two of big wood chips. Barbara Tryon saw a partridge on the edge of her lawn, November 25. It just sat there, for a long time—unusual behavior for a partridge.

On December 13, Fran Amidon noticed a great to-do in her bird feeder, and no wonder: a large red-tailed hawk was perched on a chair by the feeder trying to make up its mind which agitated little bird to go after!

Insects

This time of year demonstrates the hardiness of our insects that "winter over." They manage to keep from freezing in some nook or crevice and, when a warm day comes along, they emerge and fly about to astonish us.

Plants

The buds are there for next spring and summer. Hobble-bushes have two little brown ears sticking up where big leaves will unfold, and you can actually see mountain laurel blossoms in tiny bud, showing which twigs will bear the flowers in June.

On each new snow, the wind scatters thousands of birch and hemlock seeds, highly visible signs of the prodigality of nature in trying to ensure that the next generation will be coming along.

— David P. McAllester



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TALES FROM TEXAS

Roundup

...I do not believe that any kind of riding will pump virtue into a man like that in pursuit of wild, strong, mighty-horned cattle plunging for liberty or just walking like phalanxes of destiny towards the tail end of the world.

— J. Frank Dobie in *The Longhorns*

Throughout the muted chaos of my teenage years in the somnolent fifties in Waxahachie, Texas, my favorite and purest moments were spent helping with cattle roundups sixty miles away at the K Bar Ranch.

There is a graininess, a cadence and an inexorability to the work which puts it at the core of the Cowboy Experience. Western movies don't capture that essence; they dwell on violence and romanticized heroism. The truth is that cattle roundups and drives for the most part are long, slow meditations which, nonetheless, hold a momentous potential for mortal danger and instantaneous drama.

We didn't drive K Bar cattle hundreds of miles to a distant railroad head in the Midwest, as was done at the turn of the century. We gathered them in from far-flung pastures on the ranch with names like the Densman, the Sherwood, the Britton Breaks, and the Nanny Goat. We saddled up at dawn, searched out our placid Herefords and volatile Brahmas, and drove them from peaceful hideaways in mesquite thickets, cedar breaks, and shady draws into the heat and confusion and fearfulness of the working pens. There we sorted out sale calves and branded, vaccinated, dehorned, and castrated various others.

Work in the pens was fraught with violence and dismay. The calls and moves required in that work were lively skills to perfect, but my epiphany happened in the pastures, driving the cattle in.

Our ranch foreman in those days was a tall, beer-bellied, cigarette-smoking John Wayne-esque man named Bob Crittenden. As if all that wasn't enough, he had a glass eye, which served to raise the electric potential of his presence yet



BRIAN FEAKON

Miss Ellen herself making a videotape of cattle in the pens, Roundup 1994.

another several volts. Bob and I got along well. He could be counted on to rescue me off runaway horses, to cook everybody canned biscuits and sausage for breakfast, and generally to run the show.

K Bar Roundups required a dozen or so hands hired in from surrounding towns. Foreman Bob deployed us strategically into the vast stretches of the ranch, instructing us each to funnel whatever cattle we found toward a designated gate. I was always lost in space during that early phase (the pastures ranged from 400 to 800 acres in size), and I relied on my horse to prick his ears at the sight of a bunch of cows and channel the discovered few toward the larger convergence of cattle coming from all corners of the pasture. There then occurred a kind of experiential peak, the alchemical constituents of which included a sea of reluctantly moving brown backs and nodding heads, the distilled essence of sweaty hide and trampled camphor weed, the steady rhythm of the horses, bright big space all around, jackrabbits, chaparrals, grasshoppers, and armadillos springing up in all directions, and everywhere, galvanizing the atoms of the air, the subtle and not-so-subtle forces that shaped and impelled the mass. These forces ineffably and effectively combined herd in-

stincts, gathering and driving instincts and the natural aversion of a cow to a hissing, hooing, thigh-slapping, agenda-ridden human being on horseback. It is probably what inspired me, eventually, to study social dancing.

I rode with the cowboys day after day, knee joints aching, eyes squinting under the iron clamp of my hat, nose breathing dust and animal perfumes, and in no time at all I gratefully and with huge relief (at least until the next sock hop) turned my fevered adolescent soul over to the comforts of aboriginal wisdom.

Accounts of cattle drives of long ago remind us that things don't always go like clockwork. Next month you will hear about stampedes in the 1800s, and the 1994 Fall Roundup at the K Bar.

— Miss Ellen

Snow Plowing

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P. MURKETT

Four of six bucks successfully hunted by the Beckwith family this year.

DEER SEASON

This year for the first time, three generations of Beckwiths named Ernie hunted deer together. Ernies Sr., Jr., and III combed the woods on the hill above their homes on Lake Buel Road along with five or six other family members, and succeeded in bringing home six bucks, four of them over 150 pounds.

Margaret Beckwith presided over the deer checking station at the Sportsman's Shop next to their home. This was her twenty-third consecutive year there, and she recorded 395 deer during shotgun season (nine fewer than last year) for the largest total of all checking stations in Berkshire County.

The season's kill this year, 1,531 deer in the western district of the state (including Berkshire County and twenty towns in Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden Counties) was down 233 from last year. Freezing rain and fog on opening day was likely a factor in the reduced numbers. Margaret says hunting activity in her time has grown quieter around here. She figures it has increased in the

eastern part of the state, perhaps due in part to the opening in recent years of the forest around Quabbin reservoir to hunting. (The Quabbin watershed was closed to hunting when the reservoir, a water supply for many cities in eastern Massachusetts, was built in the 1930s. In time the deer herd grew so large that few young trees could survive browsing deer, and the forest was becoming an even-aged stand of mature trees. A controlled hunt began three years ago. Hunters at-

tend a seminar before they are licensed to hunt in the watershed forest, and effects of the hunt are studied. The goal is to reduce the deer population from a high of about sixty deer per square mile to fifteen deer per square mile.)

Margaret also noted that most area towns (including Monterey) now allow hunting only by written permission, which may deter some hunters unfamiliar with the local scene.

— Peter Murkett

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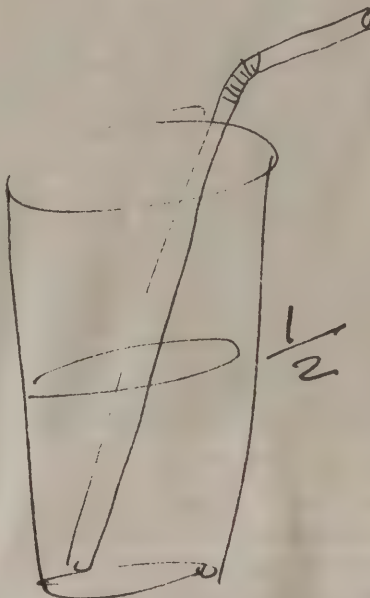
Unspeakable Things, or, Why Is the Good Life Also Hard?

Here I am, living the good life complete with hard times caused by bad luck, poor planning, lapse of better judgement, etc. It's still the good life. I judge this by the level of two voices that have lived so long in my head they have names: the Brat and Philopah. Brat and Phil have earned senatorial status as speakers of consistency and skill. They stand firmly on opposite sides of the aisle there in the head of my body politic, and they often debate the good life—what it is, how to recognize it, what it means. When these voices are lively, I take it as proof of the good life.

Philopah uses a voice of imperturbable reason and a tone of authority to good effect. In every floor debate on the good life, he enumerates the many ways in which, regardless of any trouble in my face, I still have love, family, friends, health, reasonable means, hospitable natural and human surroundings, engaging work, etc. He says things like, "Tune in the news for a taste of the real world—not even teevee, no pictures, just the radio, my man. After five minutes, tell me you're not on Easy Street." What can I say to that?

The Brat has answers. He speaks from an acute sensitivity with a close focus, using strong words full of emotion. What he says lacks the mass of an oration by Philopah, and in short time the

Brat's words may read like slogans, but when he delivers, his language has power: it is colorful and moving. You could say that Philopah is a Republican who smokes cigars, while the Brat's a pot-smoking Democrat—but don't. Inflammatory images obscure complexity, which must be honored to learn about the good life. What could be more complex than the fact that bad stuff is tightly knit into the good life?



Consider Christmastime, a compressed version of the good life, the season when it's hard to tell whether the main event is the beginning of a new year, or the enveloping cold darkness. Phil loves Christmas all the way—carols, lights, the works. The Brat sees a lot that's wrong, a high pressure effort to

push back a natural cycle. Of course it's both, another hard time in the good life.

Is there the bad life? There must be, like falling down stairs year after year. By "good" I mean fortunate, not righteous, and by "bad" I mean unfortunate, not evil; but the distinction is readily blurred, since good luck seems to nourish a generous spirit, and bad luck meanness. This is the part where complexity really takes off, and the senators work hard. Neither likes the notion of luck; it's too meaningless. The Brat makes every lump of bad luck into the stuff of revolution. Philopah gets cautious, tries to enlist science, commissions a study. I listen with the gavel in my hand.

After all I've heard, I still think the role of luck is greater than the roles of good looks, birth, timing, position, genes, intelligence, hard work, perseverance, etc., all taken together. Shown on a pie graph, all the familiar virtues and time-honored advantages comprise about two modest pieces of the good life pie; the rest is eaten by good luck. This is why any discussion of the good life—especially one committed to honor complexity—is dangerous, as courting bad luck. Ingratitude can trigger cosmic spite, souring good luck and causing total collapse of the good life. It's unwise even to appear ungrateful for the beneficial effects often associated with human highmindedness, long-range planning, or divine grace, but possibly due in equal or even greater measure to good luck. So when the Brat takes the floor a little too roughly and starts to slash and burn with his fiery mouth, I bring the gavel down hard and fast. By the same token, if Philopah drones on about the merits of endurance, etc., I hiss at him to shut up, lest the weight of his rhetoric tip the cosmic scale the other way, provoking revenge on the righteous and causing collapse of the good life by right-hand bad luck, not left. What's the diff, once you go down?

I see it as my good fortune to hear the stories spun by the Brat and Philopah. I love them both and give them room, but only so much to each. It's a good show in two acts. I like to be pitched, even if I don't like to be sold.

— Peter Murkett

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P. O. BOX NINE, 01245

Thanks to the Fire Company

January 3, 1995

To the Editor:

We would like to express our thanks to the Monterey Fire Department for the heroic efforts you all displayed while battling the recent fire at our house on Lake Garfield.

The house represents home base for our entire family as the one place where we can all relax and feel the comfort of the entire community which we know and love as Monterey. Your response and the response of all our neighbors on Bidwell Road only reinforces our comfort.

Your department, and the respondents from the surrounding communities should feel proud in your actions and in the way you have prepared for these rare but catastrophic occurrences. We are proud of you all.

Thanking you forever,
The Quisenberry Family

THE OBSERVER - NOVEMBER

You might not think so, after this year's balmy autumn season, but the November just past and November a year ago are virtually matched for temperature (high, low, and average); this year we had precipitation on four *more* days than in this month a year ago, and more of it was snow this year (0.6" snow last year, with 4.58" rain). This by way of encouragement, which is desperately needed now (late December) by anyone hoping for more of the "real" winter weather that we have tasted for the past two years. It seems remote this December, after a few storms forecast with the words "changing to sleet and snow."

We did have a report from Lake Garfield around the end of November of someone ice skating while another resident was out sailing. So far, the season is what you make of it.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| High temp. (11/4) | 71° |
| Low temp. (11/27) | 13° |
| Wind-chilled low temp. (11/23) | -17° |
| Avg. high temp. | 50° |
| Avg. low temp. | 30° |
| Avg. temp. | 40° |
| Monthly norm. (Pitts.) | 37.3° |
| Precip. occ. | 13 days |
| Total precip. | 2.7" rain, 4" snow |
| Monthly norm. (Pitts.) | 3.75" |
| High bar. press. (11/17) | 30.41" |
| Low bar. press. (11/2) | 29.31" |
| High humidity (11/28) | 100% |
| Low humidity (11/3) | 38% |
| Avg. wind speed | 3.5 mph |
| High wind gust (11/2) | 44 mph |

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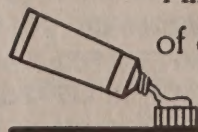


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PERSONAL NOTES

Congratulations to **Jonathan Fletcher** and **Catharyn Tivy** of Fairview Road on the birth of their son, **Benjamin Samulon Fletcher**. Benjamin was born on October 18 in Boston. Our very best to the happy new family!

Our congratulations also to **Keith** and **Michelle Amstead**, whose son, **Cody Michael**, was born November 18 at Fairview Hospital. Cody joins his big sister, Taylor, at home. Congratulations also to elated grandparents Don and Pat Amstead of Main Road, and to all of the proud Monterey aunts and uncles!

Hats off to all of the Monterey students named to the honor roll lists at area schools for the first marking period. At Monument Mountain Regional High School in Great Barrington, in Grade 12 **Paul Makuc** earned Honors, and in Grade 10 **Morgan Clawson** also achieved Honors. In Grade 6 at Searles Middle School, **Mariah Rutherford-Olds** achieved High Honors. At Berkshire School in Sheffield, junior **Samantha Goldfinger** achieved High Honors. And at Mt. Everett Regional School in Sheffield, in Grade 9, **Stephanie Hastedt** and **Jeremy Valianos** earned Honors; in Grade 10, **William Conklin** achieved High Honors and **Shaylan Burkhart**, **Joseph Kopetchny**, **Jeffrey Pilot** and **Jared Thomson** all

earned Honors; in Grade 11, both **Kevin Ohman** and **Jason Tanner** made Honors; **David Ohman** earned Honors in Grade 7 and **Lucy Rosenthal** and **David Shea** also achieved Honors in Grade 8. Phew! What a delight to see so many of our Monterey students off to a great start—keep up the good work, all of you!

A special greeting to **Paul Carnese, Sr.**, who marked his 100th birthday this past December 28. Congratulations!

Very happy birthday wishes also to **Don Welsch** on January 3, to **Joshua Gardner** on January 4, to **Spencer O'Connell Pope** on January 9, to **Cindy Hebert** on January 10, to **Jim Deloy** on January 11, to **Julian Mendel** and **Nadine Stoner** on January 13, to **Bridget Mendel** on January 15, to **Laura Dinan** on January 22, to **Ed Dunlop** on January 25, to **Shelly Bynack** on January 26, and to **Andrew Gardner** on January 27.

And happy anniversary to **Don** and **Carol Welsch** on January 5, to **Rick** and **Debbie Mielke** on January 9, and to **Rod** and **Jeri Palmer** on January 23.

Happy New Year! Your contributions are great! Please continue to share news items, birthdays, etc.... Just drop them in the mail to me, Route 23, or give me a call at 528-4519. Thanks so much!

— Stephanie Grotz

A. WALLACE TRYON

A. Wallace Tryon, of Main Road, died at age 100 on Saturday, December 10, 1994.

He was born in Monterey on May 30, 1894, the son of Bert and Lelia Burrows Tryon, and lived here all his life.

He was an air service mechanic during World War I in the Army Air Corps, Fourth Company, Fourth Mechanic Regiment in Romorantin, France. The French government honored Mr. Tryon for his work repairing French and American aircraft during the war. He received a plaque now posted in the town offices.

After the war, he and other South Berkshire County veterans formed a unit of the American Legion in Great Barrington, and he was chosen to sign the charter of Post 127. He was the last surviving "buddy" of the World War I Veterans Post 2255.

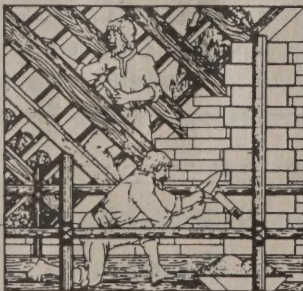
Mr. Tryon started out selling Standard Oil gasoline. In 1912 he bought the first car in town, a Model T Ford, for \$450, and started a Monterey livery and garage. He also owned the former Tryon Tea Room. After his retirement, he worked part time as a carpenter.

He served as the town's first fire chief in the 1930s, and at one time was a selectman. Until recently, he was active in the Monterey Historical Society, the Monterey Grange, the Monterey Fund Society, and the Monterey Congregational Church. He was also a member of the Southern Berkshire American Legion 127.

His wife, the former Marguerite Stedman, whom he married in 1926, died in 1978.

He leaves a son, Raymond W. Tryon of Monterey, two grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Private committal services were conducted on December 12 at Corashire Cemetery by the Reverend Frederick L. Heberle, pastor of our Lady of the Valley Church in Sheffield. Military rites and honors were conducted by the James A. Modolo VFW Post 8348. Memorial donations may be made to the Modolo VFW Post, care of Finnerty and Stevens Funeral Home.



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MOVIE SCHEDULE IS SET

Here is the schedule for this winter's Saturday night film series at the Monterey Library:

January 21 *Cat Ballou*
January 28 *Rebecca*
February 4 *Modern Times*
February 11 *The Thirty-Nine Steps*

Show time is 7:30 p.m. in the library basement. Free admission (donations okay!), popcorn and apple juice for a pittance.



CALENDAR

Sundays, January 8, 15, 22, 29 AA meetings, 9 a.m. in the Monterey Firehouse, Main Road.

Monday, January 16 No meeting of the Monterey Select Board or Board of Health.

Tuesday, January 17 Free blood pressure clinic, 9-10:30 a.m. in the basement room of the Monterey Grange (town offices), Main Road.

Wednesday, January 18 Meeting of the Monterey Grange No. 291, 8 p.m. at the Grange Hall.

Meeting of the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste District, 7 p.m. in the church basement.

Saturday, January 21 The film *Cat Ballou* shown at 7:30 p.m. in the basement of the Monterey Library. Free admission, refreshments at nominal cost.

Saturday, January 28 Square and contradance at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, 8:30-11:30 p.m. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Joe Baker. All dances

taught, beginners and children welcome. Refreshments. Adults \$5, children \$2. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

The film *Rebecca* shown at 7:30 p.m. in the basement of the Monterey Library. Free admission, refreshments at nominal cost.

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We invite readers to submit news items, opinions, stories, poetry, drawings and photographs. Editorial material must reach the editor by the 15th of the month before publication. For detailed information, call the Editor at 528-3454.

For changes of address, or information regarding subscription to the *Monterey News*, call our Business Manager, Susan LePrevost, at 528-4595 not later than 8 p.m.

For complete information about advertising in the *News*, contact the Editor at 528-3454.

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Contributions from local artists this month: Sudi Baker, p. 6; Maureen Banner, p. 19; Erika Crofut, pp. 4, 10, 11, 13; Virginia Faesy, p. 1; Bonner McAllester, p. 12; Pete Murkett, p. 16.

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